

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of exposing a file to an application, comprising the steps of:

5 providing a file of documents having fields;

receiving a request for one or more of said fields of one of said documents as a message in a simple object access protocol from an application;

10 extracting said one or more of said fields from said file as an extended markup document;

parsing said extended markup document according to a schema;

authenticating said application; and

sending the parsed document as a simple object access protocol message to said application.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said simple object access protocol is SOAP 1.1.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said extended markup document is an XML document.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said schema is formatted according to a document content description.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said schema is formatted according to a document type definition.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said application is authenticated by accessing an enterprise directory.

5 7. A method of providing data to an application, comprising the steps of:

providing a mailfile of documents having a section and fields;

receiving a request as a SOAP protocol message from an application for one of said documents;

10 retrieving said fields of said one of said documents from said mailfile;

in response to said fields, retrieving said one of said documents as a markup language document;

15 inserting a URL into said markup language document to retrieve said section of said one of said documents;

retrieving said section from said mailfile in said markup language;

20 removing said URL from the retrieved document and creating an object having said section expanded in the retrieved document;
and

marshalling said object and sending the marshalled object to said application as a SOAP protocol message.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said fields are retrieved as an XML document.

5 9. The method of claim 7, wherein said markup language is HTML or XHTML.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein said one of said documents has a file attachment link.

10 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of retrieving said attachment, removing said link, and inserting said attachment into said object.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein said one of said documents has an image tag.

15 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of retrieving the image of said image tag, encoding said image, and inserting the encoded image in place of said image tag in the retrieved document.

14. The method of claim 7, wherein said one of said documents has a link to other items in said document.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of retrieving the content of said link, and inserting said content in the retrieved document at the position of said link.

5 16. A system for providing data stored in a file to an application, comprising:

a file having data stored as documents;

a database for passing a request for one of said documents to said file and upon return converting said one of said documents into an extended markup format;

10 an authentication directory having authentication records for an application;

web service software for receiving a request from an application for one of said documents, retrieving said one of said documents, and creating an extended markup object containing said document;
15 and

a protocol tool for authenticating said application using said records, marshalling said object, and sending the marshalled object in a simple object access protocol to said application.

20 17. The system of claim 16, wherein said software and said tool are adapted to operate without the need for a mail or calendaring client.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein said extended markup format is XML.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein said object is marshalled into said simple object access protocol according to a
5 pre-defined set of rules.

20. A computer program product for instructing a processor to provide data stored in a file to an application, said computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium;

10 first program instruction means for passing a request for a document, to a file and upon return converting said document into an extended markup format;

second program instruction means for receiving a request from an application for said document, retrieving said document using
15 said first program instruction means, and creating an extended markup object containing said document;

third program instruction means for authenticating said application using records stored in an enterprise directory; and

fourth program instruction means for converting said object into
20 a simple object access protocol according to a pre-defined set of rules, and sending the converted object to said application.